



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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In Reply Refer To:
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October 10, 2012

Instruction Memorandum No. 2012-022
Expires: 09/30/2014

To: All Employees
From: State Director
Subject: Addition to the Alaska Supplement to BLM Manual 2920, relating to Winter Use Only Commercial Trapping Cabins.

Program Area: Lands and Realty

Purpose: To provide additional guidance and policy relating to the authorization of Winter Use Only Commercial Trapping Cabins on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managed public lands.

Policy/Action: Section 1.11.B.1 of the Alaska Supplement to BLM Manual 2920, included as Appendix A to this IM, provides new policy relating to the authorization of permanent structures on the National System of Public Lands. This addition to policy relates specifically to winter use only commercial trapping cabins and related structures.

Timeframe: Effective Immediately.

Budget Impact: Negligible

Background: Current policy allows individuals/companies to obtain a lease to build permanent structures (usually cabins) on BLM managed public lands for certain commercial activities. The Districts apply the following test to determine if the commercial activity is of sufficient scope to justify considering a lease: According to the Alaska Supplement to BLM Manual 2920, the activity meets the "commercial activity" definition if 25% or more of the individuals/company's annual gross income is derived from the activity. .

Based upon requests from BLM District Managers, concerned with health and safety issues, the State of Alaska, and the general public, BLM conducted a review of its policies relating to

commercial trapping cabins and determined that a separate test was appropriate for winter use only commercial trapping cabins.

This addition to policy is expected to provide improved health and safety for commercial trappers operating on the National System of Public Lands.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: Alaska Supplement to BLM Manual 2920

Coordination: AK-960, Division of Alaska Lands, Anchorage District Office, Fairbanks District Office, and the Regional Solicitors Office.

Contact: Stephen Fusilier, (907) 271-4694.

Signed by:
Bud Cribley
Alaska State Director

Signed by:
Anita R. Jette
Records Specialist

Attachment

APPENDIX A to IM 2012-022

1.11.B.1.: Winter Use Only Commercial Trapping Cabins. Winter weather conditions present significant risks to health and safety. Therefore, in addition to cabins and other structures authorized above, a permit or lease may be issued for commercial use trapping cabins and other structures that meet the following requirements as proof of commercial use:

1. The cabin and other structures may only be used for the trapping activities.
2. The cabin and other structures may only be used during the winter period commencing 30 days prior to the opening of the trapping season through 30 days after the close of the trapping season.
3. The applicant must provide proof of a substantial commercial trapping activity. In addition to holding all required State, local, or federal authorizations, the applicant must show all of the following:
 - a. Sixty days of trapping activity during at least one of the preceding three seasons;
 - b. Ownership of 20 or more traps;
 - c. Receipts for investment in the activity (fuel, trapping equipment, food, etc.); and
 - d. Proof of commercial sale, barter, and/or creation of commercial value added products.

4. Section .7: Terms and Conditions applies.

The authorized officer may authorize Winter Use Only Commercial Trapping Cabins under a permit or by a lease.